FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

Israeli Raid, Military Situation -- Israeli warplanes returned to base safely after attacking a "Popular Front terrorist base" in Bhamdun early on 7 April, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The spokesman said the base was a "jumping-off point for terrorist attacks in Israel" by Nayif Hawatimah's organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Beirut radio cited reports that the planes caused heavy material damage and destroyed a restaurant but were prevented by antiaircraft fire from achieving their objectives. The Israeli daily *MA'ARIV* viewed the raid as an unsatisfactory reaction to the 2 April attack in Jerusalem, asserting that if no one was hurt in the air strike, Israel should consider using "new and more effective means," Jerusalem radio reported. Before the Israeli raid, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrians were reinforcing their positions in the Al-Biqa' valley with tanks and rocket launchers while the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH* said the Soviet Union has warned Lebanon to expect an Israeli operation against the Syrians in the Al-Biqa' before the Israeli elections.

Beirut radio reported that fighting continued across the contact lines in the capital over the weekend despite several cease-fire announcements and an agreement on the disengagement of forces by the military subcommittee of the Higher Political Security Committee. In West Beirut the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade and the Internal Security Forces began implementing security measures on 8 April following Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's announcement banning gunmen from the streets, Beirut radio reported. Henceforth, "no organization, beginning with the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party and ending with all the other brothers, will be responsible for West Beirut's internal security," Birri declared. The 6th Brigade's efforts to maintain security in the western sector were obstructed by shelling of their positions from artillery emplacements in East Beirut, according to a 6th Brigade statement broadcast by the radio. The Lebanese Forces, in a statement carried by the Voice of Lebanon, said their shelling of West Beirut was in response to artillery fire on the eastern sector.

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have agreed to meet in Damascus on 11 April, Beirut radio reported following the recent visit to the Syrian capital by Al-Jumayyil's envoys. Radio Monte Carlo asserted that preparations for the summit have been completed. Damascus radio noted "talk" about a new Syrian-Lebanese summit, but monitored Syrian media have not thus far confirmed it will take place. Commenting on the Lebanese situation, Damascus radio decried the notion that Syria "can do anything" and is "responsible for everything" in Lebanon, asserting that such ideas are spread by people with "bad intentions" and that a national solution in Lebanon "is essentially the responsibility of the Lebanese."

Broadcasting — The Phalangists have cut off Beirut radio's external broadcasts from 'Amshit and have begun experimental transmissions by their own television station, according to reports by KUNA. A TV station transmitting under the title "Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation" was monitored on 6 April.

Israel

Israel does not want war with Syria, Defense Minister Moshe Arens asserted in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Israel seeks to deter the Syrians by strengthening the IDF — weapons systems and strategic doctrine in particular — so as to permit the IDF to upset all Syrian plans, he revealed.

"Government sources" indicated that reports of a Syrian military buildup in eastern Lebanon were "exaggerated," adding that military movements appeared to be connected to the "tensions" within Syria, according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Central Committee will call for a general Palestinian conference if the other PLO factions do not reach an agreement with Fatah on convening the PNC in the next "few weeks," PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir disclosed on 6 April in remarks reported by the *JORDAN TIMES*. The purpose of the conference would be to elect PNC members to replace those who would not attend the proposed PNC session, he noted, adding that any further delay in convening the PNC is not in the interest of the Palestinian revolution. Al-Wazir urged "direct dialogue" between the PLO factions to resolve their differences and ruled out further mediation or exchanges of memorandums.

Citing "other Palestinian sources," the *JORDAN TIMES* revealed that the four "opposition" factions have submitted a working paper to Fatah that includes demands for the rejection of the Jordanian-PLO statement, a meeting of all factions prior to the PNC session to determine a unified political program and agree on the future structure of the PLO Executive Committee, and denunciation by the Fatah Central Committee of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

Meanwhile, in an *AL-HADAF* interview cited by SANA, PFLP Secretary General George Habash confirmed that the "quadripartite alliance" wants the Fatah Central Committee to explain whether it supports 'Arafat's "deviationist" trend or the "national" trend. In a related speech reported by Damascus radio, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum rejected unilateral decisionmaking, condemned any contacts not in accordance with PNC resolutions, rejected contact with any regime still linked to the Camp David accords, and characterized talk of federation or confederation with Jordan as "premature."

Libya

Gandhi Visit — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi arrived in Tripoli on 7 April for a 2-day visit, JANA reported. In a speech broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi cautioned India against building relations with "rotten," nonprogressive Arab regimes. Al-Qadhdhafi also complained that "political cooperation or coordination" has not kept pace with material cooperation and said this threatens the development of cooperation between the two countries.

Egyptian Border — The Egyptian authorities are preventing Egyptian citizens working in Libya from returning home, the Voice of Greater Arab Homeland alleged in a 6 April report.

Iran

Iran will send 150,000 pilgrims to Mecca this year in view of the "huge" number of applicants, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative in the hajj pilgrimage organization revealed in an interview reported by Tehran radio. Asked if Saudi Arabia has agreed to the increase in the number of pilgrims, he observed that this is not up to the Saudi Government, adding that if the Saudis are incapable of administering the hajj, Iran and all the other Islamic countries are prepared to undertake the task.

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Karmal, Others Meet With UN Representative

LD080733 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, met with Diego Cordovez, representative of UN secretary general, in the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

Babrak Karmal exchanged views with him, about the continuation of his mission to find a political solution to the issues around Afghanistan in an extremely frank and friendly atmosphere.

Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of DRA, was also present at the meeting.

In continuation of discussions of previous day, Shah Mohammad Dost also had further meetings with Diego Cordovez, yesterday and today in a cordial atmosphere.

Sarwar Yuresh and Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy foreign ministers of the DRA, were also present at these meetings.

The Afghan side expressed views about the issues under discussion, which were appreciated by the representative of UN secretary general.

Shah Mohammed Dost hosted a dinner in honour of Diego Cordovez.

Diego Cordovez left Kabul for Islamabad today.

Cordovez Comments on Visit

LD080808 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR — Diego Cordovez, envoy of UN secretary general, said here today that during his visit to Kabul he had some very useful and constructive discussions.

Sharing his impressions with a BIA correspondent at Kabul airport on his departure, Diego Cordovez said: "The United Nations is the channel which still exists to make the search for a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. We feel that we should persist. This is why the secretary general asked me to come once again to hold discussions here in Kabul."

Mr. Cordovez also had some discussions in Tehran and now he is going to Islamabad. He continued: "It is of course always a pleasure to visit Kabul which I now know quite well and we have had some very useful and constructive discussions here. We feel that if we persist in continuing this process, it will be possible to find a solution."

Diego Cordovez stated, "I always said that I believed that an agreement is possible. I have found here the necessary disposition and the necessary determination to work towards an agreement, and therefore I am encouraged by that."

"I am also encouraged by the support this mission has from so many governments," he observed. "It is something that the international community looks at as a good mechanism to find a settlement and I have devoted all my efforts to this assignment."

Asked to comment on his meeting with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and with Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost, he said: "Well, I cannot comment on the substance of the discussions. As I have said many times, it is in the nature of a mission, such as this that the discussions remain confidential. But what I can tell you is just a confirmation of what I just said that I found that there was a very good disposition, a political determination to look for a solution. This is what has encouraged me."

Diego Cordovez said in conclusion: "I am now going to Islamabad and I would hope that we can find a similar feeling there."

NFF Central Council Holds 4th Plenum 9 April

LD090629 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 8, BAKHTAR — The fourth plenum of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] of the DRA was held here today.

Intensification of combat against the counter-revolution and organisational matters of the Central Council were the main agenda items of the meeting.

The main report of the meeting was read by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of Politburo and secretary of the Central Council of the PDPA and president of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front.

The report explained that the Central Council of NFF could rally thousands of patriots around it and its ranks are expanding day by day.

The report stressed that the NFF must adjust its programme and work according to the decisions of the 13th Plenum of the PDPA CC.

The plenum also issued a message which called upon the patriotic people of Afghanistan to strengthen their ranks ever further around the NFF, the PDPA and the revolutionary state in order to safeguard the gains of the April revolution.

Strong support is also expressed in the message to the cause of peace at national and international level. The message also highly evaluates the consistently peaceful policy of the socialist countries and expresses its deep hated against provocative acts of imperialism headed by U.S.A. in the gulf region, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean and other parts of the world.

Third Protest Note Issued Over Border Violation

BK061310 Dhaka BSS in English 1250 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka April 6, (BSS) — Bangladesh has lodged renewed protest for "deliberate provocative actions" of India by putting structures on the zero line of the border between the two countries in the northern Kurigram District in "flagrant violations of the border guideline."

A Foreign Office spokesman said the acting Indian high commissioner was summoned yesterday and a note was handed over to him "strongly protesting" the violation in a "repeated and continuous manner."

In the protest note, Bangladesh drew the attention of India to Bangladesh's categorical rejection of the construction of barbed wire fence to the flagrant violation of the border guidelines. This was the third protest note handed over to the acting high commissioner in Dhaka during the last three days.

Migration Into India Denied

BK091022 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] A Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokesman's (?attention was drawn) today to the continued building of a barbed wire fence along the Bangladesh-India border by India despite Bangladesh's protest to the Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh, Mr Khosla. Upon hearing Mr Khosla's Calcutta statement saying that India presented proof of large-scale infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India, the spokesman said that such a statement is completely baseless. Except for issuing a one-sided statement, the Indian authorities have not presented any proof in this regard.

In fact, a number of Indian leaders have admitted that no one is intruding into India from Bangladesh. The Indian state home minister, N.R. Laskar, while giving a statement on this issue on 8 February in Calcutta, acknowledged that there has been no intrusion into Assam from Bangladesh.

The spokesman said it is an established fact that no person from Bangladesh has migrated to India since Bangladesh's independence. The spokesman said that the living standard in Bangladesh is much better than on the other side of the border. He asked whether a sane person living in Bangladesh would like to go to Assam?

400 Prisoners Released, Including 8 Ministers

BK061318 Dhaka BSS in English 1255 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 6 (BSS) — Bangladesh Government has released over four hundred prisoners, including eight ministers of the former regime and student leaders to facilitate proposed dialogue with the political parties for resolving constitutional crisis facing the nation.

The list included convicted persons, under trial prisoners and political detainees and student leaders of northern Rajshahi University. Most of the prisoners have been released from central jail in Dhaka. The authorities have instructed the district administration to release persons arrested or detained in connection with the upazila (sub-district) election.

An official source said the release of the prisoners were [as received] aimed at creating a congenial atmosphere for dialogue which the opposition 15 party and 7-party alliances were demanding. The government was carefully examining and reviewing the lists of prisoners submitted by some political parties, the sources added.

Delhi Reports 224 Released

BK090326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, 224 out of the 300 political detenus were freed yesterday. A government spokesman said that the detenus have been released to create a congenial climate for holding dialogue between President Ershad and his political opponents. He said only those implicated in murder, kidnapping, or arson cases have not been released.

Gandhi Discusses Punjab, Departs for Tripoli

Announcement on Shortened Trip

BK061626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister has cut short her visit abroad which is beginning tomorrow. Mrs Gandhi announced this in the Lok Sabha this evening. She will now visit Libya and Tunisia only. The visit will last 3 days until Monday. Her visits to Alegeria and Egypt have been postponed.

The prime minister said that, owing to the situation in Punjab, she had considered postponing the entire tour, but it was felt that it was too late to cancel the visits to Libya and Tunisia. She expressed her sincere hope that all sections of the people of Punjab will work together for countering the distrust and violence.

Mrs Gandhi reminded the members that, wherever she is, she is kept in constant touch with developments at home and receives all essential papers. Mrs Gandhi said the Governments of Algeria and Egypt have been most understanding. They have agreed to her visiting these countries at a later date. The Government of India is grateful to them for their helpfulness. The prime minister said her plan to visit the four countries was in response to invitations which had been extended and accepted a long time ago. Libya and Tunisia have not been visited by any Indian president or prime minister. The four countries are important members of the world community and prominent in the Non-aligned Movement. India has always had close relations with them. We have shared assessments with them on important international developments. We also have increasing and mutually advantageous economic relations with these countries. Mrs Gandhi said the object of her visits was to strengthen bilateral relations. Another objective was to discuss common courses of action regarding the deterioration of the situation in West Asia and elsewhere. She pointed out that her stay in these countries was to be for just a day or two because the Lok Sabha was in session and events at home needed a close watch.

Address to Nation on Punjab

BK061623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] In a broadcast to the nation a short while ago, the prime minister said communalism was an evil which we all must fight together and with all our strength. The wrongdoers must be punished and divisive tendencies curbed. The people of Punjab have always been known for their valor and constructive enterprise. She hoped that they will work together for healing the wounds and removing distrust.

Mrs Gandhi said the last few days had been days of agony for her and for all people who have the good of the motherland at heart. Violence continues and there have been acts of terrorism in Punjab by misguided and criminal groups claiming to act in the interest of Sikhs. These acts have taken a toll of many lives, spreading hatred and creating bitterness. The prime minister said the Sikhs themselves, who are known for their patriotism and take pride in their contribution to the building of a new India, are unhappy by these sinister acts. People of all religions are sons and daughters of India and their deaths and sufferings affect us equally. She said it is time for all like-thinking people to help the government in putting down individual terrorism indulged in by a handful of people. It is ironic that while a valiant son of India should soar into space symbolizing the country's aspirations, a few should prowl the streets on murderous [word indistinct].

The prime minister ended her broadcast by stating that while abroad her thoughts will be with the people of India.

7 April Departure

BK070624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, left New Delhi a short while ago for Tripoli on a 3-day visit to Libya and Tunisia. She was given an affectionate send-off at the airport by a large number of people, including her Cabinet colleagues, several members of parliament, and Congress-I leaders. The prime minister is accompanied among others by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Ramesh Bhandari.

Coverage of Trip

For Tripoli, Tunis, and Delhi reportage on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visits to Libya and Tunisia, including reports on a welcoming ceremony in Tripoli, talks between Gandhi and Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi, banquet addresses by the two, and her departure from Tripoli and arrival in Tunis on 8 April, see the Northern Africa section of the 9 April Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Materials Dealing With Punjab Situation

Union Cabinet Meeting

BK070704 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] The Union Cabinet had a brief meeting last night to review the Punjab situation. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, presided. Earlier, the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet also met and reviewed the situation in the state. The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pandey, who had earlier arrived in the capital, called on the prime minister and apprised her of the situation in the state. Two Bhartiya Janata Party leaders, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Mr L.K. Advani, also had a meeting with the prime minister and urged her to take immediate steps to curb terrorist activities in Punjab. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, was present during the meeting.

In Punjab, with the improvement in law and order situation, the curfew in four of the five towns where it was imposed on the 2d of this month has been lifted. In Amritsar, though the curfew is continuing till tomorrow morning, a 12-hour relaxation has been given today from 0600 this morning. According to an official spokesman, the situation all over the state continues to be under

control except for one incident of firing in Amritsar yesterday by some unidentified miscreants in which one person was injured. No other untoward incident has been reported since yesterday afternoon.

Sikh Leader's Warning

BK071648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 7 (AFP) — A top Sikh leader today warned federal authorities that tensions were mounting in Punjab due to the continued presence of federal para-military forces in the holy city of Amritsar and called for the troops' withdrawal, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Harchand Singh Longowal, head of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, issued his demands in letters to President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Punjab Governor Bhairab Dutt Pandey, PTI said.

In the letters, the Sikh leader said his people were getting increasingly restless as a result of the presence of the Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) in the tense Punjab city.

"In view of the mounting resentment among the Sikhs against this force, I am finding it difficult to hold them in check," he said. He added that pilgrims visiting the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar had been "harrassed" as a result of the CRPF presence in the vicinity, and charged that the elite border troops were conniving with "hooligans" to "wreak vengeance on innocent Sikhs."

7 April Bomb Blast

BK081142 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, three persons, including a woman, received minor injuries in a bomb blast at (Coach Sapaha) in Bhatinda District last night. Barring this, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state during the last 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the Punjab University, Patiala, has postponed all annual examinations. The new schedule of examinations will be announced later.

Ferrying of private boats in the River Beas and its tributaries flowing to Kampurthala has been banned with immediate effect. The ban will continue to the end of next month. This has been done to prevent extremists from using boats in their activities in the area.

Amritsar Curfew Extension

BK081610 Delhi Domestic Service in English [illegible]30 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Excerpt] In Amritsar, the curfew has been extended from this evening till Tuesday morning as a precautionary measure. The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, has postponed all its annual examinations indefinitely. The new dates will be announced later.

8 April Bomb Explosion

BK090300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, one home guard personnel was killed and another person injured in a bomb blast at a religious place in Bhatinda last night. In Ropar, an attempt was made at night to set on fire some portions of the local college. The fire was, however, controlled before it could cause any substantial damage. Patrolling by police and paramilitary forces is continuing in all the sensitive parts of the state to thwart any untoward incident.

Government Effort Urged To Ensure Tamils' Safety

BK061302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Members of the Lok Sabha today urged the government to take necessary steps to ensure safety of lives and property of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. They were taking part in a special discussion on the situation arising out of the reported decision of the Sri Lankan Government to impose military rule in Jaffna and the killings of Tamilians of Indian origin there. The members strongly condemned violent incidents in Jaffna and some other areas.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Rashid Masud, Lok Dal, demanded that the issue be raised before the Human Rights Commission in the United Nations to arouse public conscience. He also demanded economic sanctions against the Sri Lankan Government. There were suggestions that direct talks should be held with the Sri Lankan Government to solve the issue.

Rao on Release of Boats Seized by Sri Lanka

BK051724 Hong Kong AFP in English 1547 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 5 (AFP) — India is seeking the release of six fishing boats seized by Sri Lanka in recent months for operating in the island state's territorial waters, Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao told parliament today.

Answering questions in the lower house, Mr. Rao said Colombo had taken eight boats and their crews into custody, but later released two of the vessels. The skippers of the remaining boats were still on bail in Jaffna, but other crew members have been returned home, he added.

Mr. Rao said the Indian High Commission in Colombo was actively seeking the release of the ships and captains. He characterised the basic problem between the two countries as economic, noting that both Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen had strayed into each other's territorial waters on several occasions in the past.

The foreign minister said India was strengthening coastguard patrols of its waters to prevent such incidents, but added that it would be expensive to clearly mark territorial boundaries with bouys.

Gandhi Talks With Indian Cosmonaut Via Satellite

BK060254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that the knowledge acquired through the Indo-Soviet joint space flight will be used for peaceful purposes and for the good of mankind.

In a 10-minute conversation from New Delhi with the Indian cosmonaut, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, Mrs Gandhi said: Your work has great significance for increasing humankind's knowledge of the mysteries of outer space and its direct bearing on our planet's ecosystem and the other information we need. We want to use this knowledge for peaceful purposes and for the good of all people of our world.

Your flight is eloquent testimony of the all-round cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. The Government of India appreciates the Soviet Union's friendliest collaboration in this field.

Mrs Gandhi's conversation with Rakesh Sharma was made possible through a special two-way satellite link established for the purpose between New Delhi and Moscow. Two channels were provided — one via the Intelsat satellite and the other through the Soviet Union's (Statfrionut) satellite.

Official Says Salyut Crew Corrects 'Minor Snag'

BK090309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] The Salyut crew, working with experts on the ground, have successfully commissioned onboard a furnace which failed to work well on Saturday. This was disclosed by Dr A. M. (Shri Ramamurthi), a member of the Indian technical team in Moscow. A minor snag has been corrected and the cosmonauts have already carried out experiments with the samples of silver-germanium alloy.

The Indian cosmonaut, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, continued his yoga and photography on the 5th day yesterday.

Rao Departs for Portugal, France 7 April

BK081152 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi today on a week-long visit to Portugal and France. During his stay in Lisbon, he will represent the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, Mrs Gandhi, at the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe. He will leave for Paris later for talks with the French counterpart, Mr Claude Cheysson. The talks are considered significant because France is the current president of the European Economic Community.

Minister Comments on U.S. Military Package

BK071122 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The federal law minister, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, told the Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] this morning that Pakistan expects that economic aid and military sales package deal with the United States will be implemented in full without any conditions whatsoever.

Speaking on an adjournment motion, he said this position has been made clear to the U.S. Government. The adjournment motion sought to discuss the move by the American Senate Foreign Relations Committee for putting further conditions to the package deal. Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, speaking on behalf of the foreign minister, emphasized that the 1981 agreement of ecnomic assistance and military sales credit was concluded after long and protracted negotiations and it was endorsed by the American Congress. In this connection, he recalled the president's statement at his news conference in Islamabad on return from Guinea. The president in his statement had declared that Pakistan had neither the desire nor ability to manufacture a nuclear weapon. Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely peaceful in nature and is not geared to the manufacture or acquisition of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has opposed in the past and would continue to oppose in the future any effort to impose discriminatory restrictions on Pakistan's nuclear program.

The minister assured the house that the government is fully conscious of its responsibilities for upholding Pakistan's sovereignty and independence. It will not be a party to and countenance any action which derogates from our independence. He said that the government shares the views of the members of the Majlis-i-Shoora that the (?preamble) to the foreign aid bill amounted to interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan has already expressed its concern to the American Government in this behalf.

He assured the house that the political system of Pakistan is not to be determined or dictated by any outside quarter. It is for Pakistan to have a system based on Islamic ideology, genius of our people, and the needs of our nation. We do not need any sermon or democracy from anyone. He said that the quaid-i-azam [reference to founder of Pakistan Mohammad Ali Jinnah] had stated repeatedly and declared that democracy is in our blood.

Council Assured of Alertness to Border Situation

BK081226 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Majlis-i-Shoora was assured this morning that the government is alert to the situation and has taken appropriate measures to safeguard the security of the country's borders. This assurance was given by the law minister, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, while replying to an adjournment motion by Mian Abdur Rauf, seeking to discuss the situation arising out of the recent exercises carried out by the Indian Armed Forces in areas close to Pakistan's borders and the control line in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on behalf of the foreign minister, the law minister said the Government of Pakistan is aware of these exercises. However, he said these exercises this year were on a larger scale than in the past though it is an annual affair. The mover did not press his motion in the light of the minister's statement.

Speaking on another adjournment motion, the law minister said that the massacre carried out by the Israeli forces in another city of Lebanon recently has caused deep concern to the people as well as the Government of Pakistan. He said: Although we have not yet received details of the incidents, we are fully aware of the Israeli nefarious designs against Lebanon.

UN's Cordovez Arrives for Talks on Afghanistan

BK080245 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general, arrived in Islamabad this evening to assist in efforts in connection with finding a solution to the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he believed that a situation exists for continuing efforts toward a solution to the Afghanistan problem. He said this is the right time to do something to solve this problem.

Mr Cordovez said he will exchange views with President Ziaul Haq, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the foreign secretary on this matter. He said he would apprise them of his impressions of his talks with the other two parties and said he would try hard to succeed in his mission.

Mr Cordovez said that the UN secretary general and he himself believed that a settlement could be arrived at in connection with the Afghanistan problem. He said his talks in Tehran and Kabul had been positive and constructive.

Meetings With Yaqub Khan

BK081525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Two rounds of talks were held in Islamabad today between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the personal representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez.

The first round of talks, which lasted for about 90 minutes, was held in the morning and the second round of talks, which lasted for about 1 hour, was held this afternoon. The foreign secretary and other senior officers assisted the foreign minister in the talks. Mr Cordovez was assisted by his two aides. The talks will continue tomorrow.

NEPAL

Arrested Congress Party Members Released

BK071201 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] Katmandu, April 7 (AFP) — Authorities have released more than 300 activists of the banned Nepali Congress arrested when they tried to attend a party conference here, a party official said today.

The conference, called to discuss Nepal's current political situation and chart a plan of action, was thwarted as police arrested almost all the participants before it got underway yesterday.

Riot police cordonned off possible conference venues and eventually moved in on the congress offices and rounded up activists and party workers.

Congress Acting President Kirshna Prasad Bhattarai and two other top leaders, Ganesh Man Singh and Girija Prasad Koirala, were briefly arrested yesterday but were later released. The more than 300 rank and file members detained were also freed last night, Mr. Bhattarai said.

Some activists managed to read out a four-point resolution outside an open air theatre before police mounted a baton-charge and arrested them.

In the resolution, the party announced it was to launch a nationwide non-violent movement to secure democratic rights. This campaign would begin within six months of a proposed conference to discuss the issue.

The Nepal Congress also criticised the government's economic policy, saying that the country's economy was stagnant and foreign aid had been wasted. It stressed the need for decentralisation of the economy, particularly towards improving health and agricultural services.

SRI LANKA

Cultural, Scientific Protocol Signed With USSR

BK061230 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] A protocol on cultural and scientific exchanges between Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union for 1984 was signed in Colombo yesterday. The protocol for the purpose of promoting the development of cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries provides for exchanges, exhibitions, and performances. The USSR and Sri Lanka also promote the exchange of sports teams, coaches, and specialists. The protocol envisages the further development of exchanges in the field of television and radio broadcasting. The minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, and the Soviet ambassador, Boris Kirnasovskiy, signed the protocol on behalf of their respective countries.

President Offers To Send Senior Official to India

BK071316 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] President Jayewardene has offered to send a senior minister to New Delhi for talks to remove any misunderstandings between the two countries. This was stated by the Indian external affairs minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, in the Indian parliament yesterday. According to the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, the Indian Government will continue to work for a solution to the ethnic problem.

Mr Rao was speaking during a debate on Sri Lanka. During the debate, members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK], an opposition party from Tamil Nadu in southern India, walked out of the chamber to express their dissatisfaction with Mr Rao's remarks. One DMK member, C.T. Dandapani, said that the only solution was the creation of a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka. Mr Rao quoted Mrs Gandhi as saying that Indian Government stood for the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile in parliament yesterday, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, pointed out that when Sri Lanka was debating a vote of no-confidence moved by the opposition, in New Delhi in the Lok Sabha, the back-benchers were urging the Indian Government to send the Indian Army to Sri Lanka to settle the ethnic problem. He said that Sri Lanka was seeking a political solution to the present problem. As such, all should suspend their differences and face the challenge together.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that Sri Lanka should enter into a friendship treaty with its neighbors. The whole country was facing a threat today. This is why, he added, we should strengthen our defenses.

Winding up the debate on the no-confidence motion which was defeated by a majority of 116 votes, the leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike said that India was one of the most powerful countries in Asia. If Sri Lanka handled its relationship with that country correctly and with upward dignity, India would become our best friend.

The foreign minister Shahul Hameed said that the [word indistinct] of good will that existed between the two countries (?for several centuries) were strong enough to face the present problem and work out a solution acceptable to both countries.

Premadasa Notes Spread of 'Incorrect Publicity'

BK081210 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Excerpt] All citizens in Sri Lanka enjoy equal rights, but some are seeking political asylum abroad saying that they were harassed. There is no truth in their charges. Prime Minister R. Premadasa has therefore requested friendly countries not to leave any room for such incorrect publicity and anti-Sri Lanka campaign. The prime minister made this appeal at Panadura yesterday. The event was the inauguration of the (Rigadiousgama) model village. Consisting of 217 housing units, this model village

is considered to be the largest to be set up under the village reawakening movement. Mr Premadasa recalled his visit to East Germany in 1981 when the prime minister of that country informed him about persons seeking political asylum. The German leader had said that he had rejected their requests as he had found no truth in their charges. The prime minister asked why certain countries were allowing for the operation of such campaigns.

Tamil Separatist Leader Comments on 'Conspiracy'

BK071324 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 7 (AFP) — The separatist Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) of Sri Lanka has accused the government in the island nation of hatching a conspiracy to "wipe out" Tamils in the northern provinces, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

In a statement issued in the southern city of Madras today, TELF President Kovai Mahesan alleged that Sri Lankan Minister Lalith Athulathmudali had been entrusted with the task of carrying out the operation during the coming tour abroad of President Junius Jayewardene.

Mr. Mahesan said that as a first step, communication facilities with the northern part of the island would be cut so that news of happenings in the area could be kept from leaking out. Food supplies to the areas would also be stopped.

In the past, when there were attacks on Tamils, they would flee to India. But this was impossible now with the army and navy guarding the entire coastal aeras, PTI quoted him as saying.

Jayewardene Cites Cordial Ties With UK

BK081202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene, referring to a pact signed between Sri Lanka and Britain which was still valid, said yesterday, that the British were our allies. Speaking at a function to mark the ceremonial impounding of the waters of Mahaweli in the Victoria reservoir, the president said he hoped Britain would come forward to Sri Lanka's assistance if this country was threatened by any foreign power. He expressed great affection for the British people and their way of life and the great contribution the British had made to parliamentary democracy. The parliamentary system is the best that has been devised. Mr Jayewardene underlined the cordial relationship between Sri Lanka and Britain and described Britain as our great friend. He also recalled how Sri Lanka supported Britain when the Falklands issue was raised in the United Nations.

The president noted that, through the no-confidence motion moved in Parliament, the opposition sought to pinpoint the misdeeds of the government. He asked why the opposition could not talk about the good deeds of the government.

Khomeyni on Elections, UN Delegation's Report

LD081417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 84

[19-minute speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on 8 April at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran to female students of Qom Islamic Schools and female members of Narmak Mosque — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am grateful to my sisters, the esteemed ladies, for having come here, because it enables me to point out some of the things which our sisters have experienced and the role of women during the past 100 or so years.

During the period of the Islamic Revolution, you played a more important role than the men. That is, not only were you taking an active part in it, but you also encouraged the men to take an active part. Therefore, the glory created by you ladies is to be highly commended. Consequently, you must participate in all events and in all areas, as much as permitted by Islam. An example of this is the Majlis election, which must take place and which is a topical subject in Iran today. In these elections, ladies as well as men must take an active part, for there is no difference between your fate and that of others. Iran's fate encompasses everyone's fate. That is to say, when it comes to service, Islam has served you more than it has men. Islam protected you and so in return you too must protect Islam. Protecting Islam means that the coming elections — which are to cover the second term of the Majlis — are important in deciding your fate as well as our fate; you must bear in mind that the elections are of highest importance.

This coming election will concern all matters, both internal and external. Therefore, you ladies must play an active role in case, God forbid, we are faced with a Majlis which, having been infiltrated by undesirable elements, might be led either toward the West or the East consequently being turned into something similar to the Majlis under the past regime, and thus treating us as it did in the past.

Anyway, I hope the next Majlis will be a very good one — a Majlis in which the entire nation will participate, without bothering to think about what might be said in the future. The fact is that those who are hostile to us are at present actively trying to pollute the Majlis. Certain activities are under way both inside and outside the country. Through your presence and your gatherings and by going to the voting booths, you must foil such activities. God willing, when there emerges a good Majlis — considering the existence of the ulema and the lawyers in the Guardians Council — we then will rest assured. For, God willing, nothing will occur which is contrary to Islam and to the interests of Muslims.

As for the war, I hope it will end in Iran's favor. All the struggles which are taking place right now throughout the world to protect and preserve Saddam will, I hope, fail. I hope they fail to save this criminal. God willing, I hope this war will end properly, thus enabling us all to enhance this country, both spiritually and materially and turing it, God willing, into a proper Islamic country and thus an example for all other Islamic countries.

Meanwhile, you surely know that the group which came to investigate Saddam's great crime — a crime which threatens all mankind — has made its report. However, those who should have really condemned Saddam failed to do so. It would have been much better if they had not been sent, for then they would not have exposed themselves to the world. Those who claim to be independent, to support mankind, have unmasked themselves because, owing to their considerations for the East and the West, they failed to condemn Iraq by name. What they said in general terms was that they condemn anyone using chemical substances. As for who is making use of chemical agents, they were unable to say.

It would have been much better if they had not taken this step, so that we ourselves, without having to resort to such crimes [as heard], could, God willing, remove Saddam and the Ba'th Party with a crushing blow and then liberate the Iraqi nation from the yoke imposed on it by this corrupt man. I pray to God Almighty for the success of you ladies and sisters. May Islam be established in Iran, as desired by God Almighty. God bless you all.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani Leads Friday Prayers

Stresses Importance of Majnun

GF061626 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Millions of our revolutionary Muslim nation today participated in Friday prayers throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Tehran, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, secretary general of the Society of the Struggling Tehran Uelma, led the Friday prayers.

In one of his sermons, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani spoke of the importance of liberating the Majnun Islands by the Islamic liberation army and the impregnable positions of the soldiers of Islam on the islands. He said: The victories achieved in the victorious Khaybar operations are a prelude to the total victory of the soldiers of Islam. He added: The desperate attempts by the forces of the Iraqi regime to regain the Majnun Islands signify the strategic importance of these islands.

The Tehran Friday imam ad interim expressed the hope that the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Revolution will end with the total victory of the Islamic liberation army and the fall of the Saddamist regime.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani then referred to the approaching date of the elections of the second session of the Majlis. He declared: The Muslim Iranian people's hearty and unprecedented support and welcome for the elections and their expectation to fully participate in these elections constitute another heavy blow to the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Criticizes Radio, Television

LD061939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Excerpts] During the first sermon of today's prayer, the ad interim Friday imam of of Tehran, alluding to a certain recom-

mended prayer in the month of Rajab, particularly the one concerning pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him, expressed the hope that during this blessed month the Islamic combatants, once they conquer Karbala will achieve the blessing of paying homage to the pure holy shrine of Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him.

Concluding his sermon, he criticized some of the programs carried by the radio and television during the Iranian New Year holidays and their incompatibility with the culture and mentality of the Iranians, calling on the responsible officials of the media to expand the educational and cultural programs of the radio and television, since the objective of the media is to raise the shortcomings and the difficulties of the society, rather than to promote unnecessary issues which are incompatible with our culture.

Warns Against Move in Gulf

GF070613 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani in Tehran on 6 April]

[Text] Tehran, 7 Apr (IRNA) — In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace be upon the Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world.

The international imperialism, and particularly the arch-Satan, today finds itself in a predicament due to the fact that the international Islamic Revolution is threatening its interests everywhere. Following the steadfasteness of the Lebanese Muslim people and after expelling the aggressive U.S. forces from the Lebanese territories, the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf are trying to undertake another adventure after America's agents in the region, especially Saddam, have been caught in a trap that they cannot be easily rescued from. However, it is clear that any move in the Persian Gulf will be doomed to failure, just as happened in Muslim Lebanon. The Persian Gulf will always continue to belong to the children of Islam pioneered by our valiants and heroes who defend their faith and rights until complete victory is achieved. Today, America is trying to repulse the blows dealt against it by the Islamic Revolution in Iran and by the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon, Palestine, and all parts of the region. It will receive major mortal blows in the future.

The war imposed on Islamic Iran has proven that international equations and Eastern and Western calculations lose their effectiveness when faced with the belief of Islam's soldiers and their steadfastness. Despite all the enormous military, economic, and media resources placed under the disposal of the criminal Iraqi regime to launch its aggressive attack against Islamic Iran and to continue this war which it set ablaze, and despite its continued control of government, the infidel Iraqi regime has not been able to accomplish victory in the war. Daily it is coming closer to its black end. After all the crimes it perpetrated against the heavily populated cities and against unarmed civilians, and after violating all moral and human standards and even international norms, and after all the savageness it showed during the imposed war, Saddam has resorted to the use of chemical and poisonous weapons on a large scale. However, he did not achieve his ominous goals, even with the use of this means.

What is surprising is that the imperialist world remained silent toward Saddam's crimes, which he perpetrates daily with full savageness and cruelty. When Iran asked the United Nations to send a delegation to study the situation and investigate the use of chemical materials in the war, the delegation's report indicated that the criminal regime in Iraq had actually used this type of weapon several times. The UN secretary general stated that he cannot afford but to express regret on this matter. However, at the same time he issued a statement denouncing the trial of the agent spies in Iran. One wonders what logic do those in power in the world employ and until when will this reactionary and regressive march continue? When will the nations get up and rise in order to avenge and retaliate? It is the religious duty of every Muslim everywhere to support truth and the wronged and to fight falsehood and the unjust. So, rise up you Muslims toward achieving full victory for Islam and for human justice. Verily, the victory of God is close. And may peace, the mercy of God, and His blessings be upon you.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,688

LD061808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,688 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on the Piranshah and Marivan fronts. The selfless combatants of Islam prevented the traffic of enemy supply vehicles along the Choman-Mustafa axis and Wares heights and silenced enemy fire. On the Marivan front, our forces set fire to an ammunition depot of the Iraqi forces and destroyed one truck and three entrenchments, killing their crews.

On the western and southern fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam continued to fortify and establish their defensive positions, especially those on the Majnun Islands, and opened fire on enemy positions, units, and patrol groups whenever possible, inflicting damage and casualties on the Iraqi forces. Three observation posts and heavy weapons emplacements situated in the Sharhani region belonging to the Saddamist mercenaries were destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were killed. The intensity of exchanges of fire on these fronts was greater on Mehran, Meymak, and Zayd Garrison than other places. At various times on 4 April, about 50 Iraqi soldiers formed into several patrol groups; they were identified on the western fronts by our combatants and were forced to flee after suffering a number of casualties.

On the southern fronts, about 100 enemy patrol personnel came under the timely fire of the combatants of Islam and were pushed back after leaving a number of dead and wounded behind. On the Majnun Islands, enemy patrol boats intending to infiltrate the islands were dispersed by our combatants.

On 3 April, a motorized column of Iraqi forces carrying tanks came under our forces fire in the border region of (Mehr-e Anbar); three enemy tank carriers were completely destroyed. On the Arvand Rud front, the courageous Navy personnel and the warriors of the Gendarmerie returned and silenced enemy fire. In the Navy's defensive zone, the damage and casualties sustained by the enemy included the destruction of an ammunition depot, two machine gun emplacements, and four observation posts. Also, the fire of the Gendarmerie combatants killed a number of Iraqi forces in their trenches and destroyed several of their mortar emplacements.

The city of Abadan came under the Saddamist mercenaries fire as usual; 18 houses and shops were damaged and the city's hospital was damaged.

Communique No 1,689

LD071708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,689 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Clashes continued in the northwestern operational sector yesterday in the form of exchanges of fire. On the border fronts of Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran, the warriors of Islam, through their continuous observation and by dispatching patrol groups, monitored the enemy's moves, and by opening fire on positions and supply axes of the Saddamists killed or wounded at least 50 of them. The fire of the warriors of Islam also set ablaze and destroyed one ammunition depot, two vehicles carrying enemy troops, and several of the Saddamist mercenaries' trenches.

Exchanges of heavy artillery fire continued in the western and southern operational sectors, and the mighty combatants of Islam opened fire on infantry troops, observers, positions,and fortifications of the Saddamist forces, neutralizing the movements and activities of the Saddamist mercenaries. In the course of fire exchanges on the banks of the Arvand Rud, a total of 24 slit trenches and foxholes and observation posts of the enemy were destroyed on the western bank of the river and over 30 of the Saddamists were either killed or wounded.

The city of Abadan came under sporadic enemy heavy artillery fire yesterday, which damaged 19 houses and 6 shops and caused fires in two areas.

Communique No 1,690

LD081744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,690 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the mighty combatants of Islam kept enemy movements and operations under control on the Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran, and Marivan fronts. They returned enemy fire, bringing under fire and repelling an enemy armored unit in the Piranshah sector. In the Hajj 'Umran and Panjwin sector, they destroyed an enemy personnel vehicle, a loader, and 7 weapons emplacements, killing at least 40 Saddamists. The firing was more intense on the 2,519th and Kodu heights.

On the western fronts, our forces continued their operations and defensive activities, bringing enemy positions, communication and supply routes, and patrol groups under artillery and mortar fire, destroying 2 mortar positions and a loader and killing or injuring 12 enemy personnel. The exchange of fire was more intense in the Sumar sector.

At 1300 on 6 April, an enemy patrol group was pursued and brought under our forces fire in the Sumar sector; it fled after suffering casualties.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam disrupted enemy movements and silenced enemy fire, destroying at least two enemy engineering vehicles and several trenches and killing or injuring several enemy personnel.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the combatants of Islam pounded enemy positions, killing or injuring several enemy personnel. Thanks to the fire of the Gendarmerie on enemy positions and on the Al-Faw-Basra supply axis, enemy vehicle movements were disrupted as much as possible and more than 24 cannon and RPG-7 emplacements, observation posts, and trenches were destroyed, 2 enemy assembly buildings were set afire, and several enemy personnel were killed.

Yesterday, enemy fire wrecked a number of houses and shops and damaged a school in Abadan.

Radio Iran Reports School Girls Sent to Fronts

GF090650 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1830 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] According to reports received, after Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that the dispatch of women and girls to the fronts will soon be legalized by the mullahs, the Islamic Republic recently sent a group of very young girls to the fronts, forcing them out of the elementary and high schools. It has been said that the Islamic Republic is planning to increase the dispatch of girls and women to the fronts following strong new publicity. It is planning to kill a great number of Iranian women and girls in addition to the men and boys.

IRNA: Prisons Transformed Into Islamic Training Centers

LD080849 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Efforts of authorities have changed prisons of the country to Islamic training centres where continuous efforts are being made to transform these centres on the basis of Islamic criteria, said Mohammad Taqi Moqayesi, head of the council to supervise prisons of the country, Saturday.

He added that there are workshops, professional training centres, and ideological and Islamic morality classes in prisons, and any

prisoner who taught ten other prisoners how to read and write would be suggested for pardon.

He said that welfare measures also have been taken for the children of prisoners. The prisoners after being released, are also taken under the supervision by special centre to prevent them from repeating their crimes. It also finds job for those who are qualified.

The head of the council to supervise prisons said too that so far large numbers of prisoners in the country who were eligible for pardon have been released and other cases are still pending.

Radio Iran Cites Defecting Clergyman's Interview

GF071640 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Text] One of the clerics opposed to the regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni who is referred to by the Baghdad press as Hojjat-ol Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Tehrani has, in a press interview, called the Islamic Republic a regime opposed to Islam and warned the clergy that Khomeyni has a mission to weaken the prestige and role of Islam in the world. Hojjat-ol Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Tehrani called the Khomeyni regime a criminal one which tries to keep its hold on the Iranian nation through plots, murders, and manslaughter.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Calls for Expansion of IRNA

LD081155 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Managing Director of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY Dr. Kamal Kharrazi met with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today and dicussed with him the future expansion of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani said that officials of the country had always attached importance to the expansion of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, adding that essential steps should be taken in this respect.